

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are pending.
Claims 1, 3 and 11 have been amended.
Claims 27-39 have been added.
Claims 1 and 27 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are patentable over the prior art.

A. The 35 U.S.C. §112 Objections to Claims 1-13

The Examiner objects to Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention". Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggestions for overcoming the above objections to Claims 1-13. Applicants have amended Claim 1 so as to more clearly claim the subcombination. Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended Claim 1 so as to insert -- is adapted to -- before "substantially", in line 9 as shown, and so as to insert -- adapted to be -- before "pre-aligned", in line 17 as shown, in order to overcome the Examiner's objection to Claim 1.

Applicants have also amended Claim 3 so as to insert -- adapted to be -- before "disposed", in line 3 as shown, in order to make Claim 3 consistent with the subcombination claimed in Claim 1.

Applicants have also amended Claim 11 so as to insert -- adapted -- before "for", in line 3 as shown, in order to make Claim 11 consistent with the subcombination claimed in Claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments to each of Claims 1, 3 and 11 do not contain new matter. The amendments to claims 3 and 11 are not intended to narrow the scope of these claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-13 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Withdrawal of the objection to Claims 1-13 is respectfully requested.

B. The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections of Claims 1-13

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, and 11 stand rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,312,525 (Bright) in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) of Fig. 1. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (APA) of Fig. 2 in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA) of Fig. 1, and further in view of Bright. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of APA of Fig. 1 and further in view of Langlais, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,107,775 (Langlais). Claim 6 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA of Fig. 2 in view of APA of Fig. 1 in view of Bright, and further in view of Langlais. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA of Fig. 2 in view of APA of Fig. 1 in view of Bright and further in view of Johnson, U.S. Patent No. 4,480,656 (Johnson). Claims 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bright in view of APA of Fig. 1 and further in view of Way, U.S. Patent No. 2,197,598 (Way). Lastly, Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over APA of Fig. 2 in view of APA of Fig. 1 in view of Bright and further in view of Way.

As noted above, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3 and 11 and Applicants have added new Claims 27-39. Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 so as to more clearly distinguish the present invention, as defined by independent Claim 1, over the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent Claim 1 do not contain new matter. Applicants further respectfully submit that the amendments to each of Claims 3 and 11 do not contain new matter. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-13 and 27-39 are patentable over the prior art.

I. Claims 1-13 Are Patentable Over The Prior Art

a. Claim 1 is patentable over Bright in view of the APA of Fig. 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentable over Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same. Applicants respectfully submit that Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a support apparatus for an installation of semiconductor processing equipment having a bottom outline and a plurality of load-bearing mounting feet disposed along the equipment's bottom outline, the support apparatus comprising a plurality of support legs, and a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing

equipment and that are positioned outside of the non-rectangular frame.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of the non-rectangular frame.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable by Bright, the APA of Fig. 1, and any combination of same. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Bright in view of the APA of Fig. 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claim 1.

b. Claim 1 is patentable over the APA of Fig. 2 in view of the APA of Fig. 1, and further in view of Bright.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentable over the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same. Applicants respectfully submit that the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a support apparatus for an installation of semiconductor processing equipment having a bottom outline and a plurality of load-bearing mounting feet disposed along the equipment's bottom

outline, the support apparatus comprising a plurality of support legs, and a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of the non-rectangular frame.

Applicants respectfully submit that the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same, do not disclose or suggest a non-rectangular frame disposed on the plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of the semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to support the installation of semiconductor processing equipment by aligning with the plurality of load-bearing mounting feet of the semiconductor processing equipment, and provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of the non-rectangular frame.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable by the APA of Fig. 2, the APA of Fig. 1, Bright, and any combination of same. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the APA of Fig. 2 in view of the APA of Fig. 1, and further in view of Bright.

c. Claims 1-13 are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the prior art. Allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 2-13, which claims depend from Claim 1, is also respectfully requested.

II. Claims 27-39 are patentable over the Prior Art.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 27-39 are patentable over the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art does not disclose or suggest a frame adapted to be disposed on a plurality of support legs, the frame having a frame outline which is adapted to substantially duplicate the bottom outline of semiconductor processing equipment, the frame being configured to provide one or more facilities connection locations that are adapted to be pre-aligned to one or more facilities connection points of the semiconductor processing equipment and that are positioned outside of the frame.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 27 is not rendered unpatentable by the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 27 is patentable over the prior art. Allowance of Claim 27 is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 28-39, which claims depend from Claim 27, is also respectfully requested.

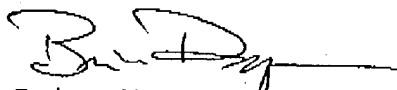
C. Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully solicited.

Allowance of pending Claims 1-13 and 27-39 is respectfully requested.

A separate Request for One Month Extension of Time is enclosed herewith, with authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696 the requisite extension fee. Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due with this Amendment. However, in the event that any other fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696 for any such fees required by this Amendment. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney should any questions remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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